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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 884
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor Steven Matthew Nalley for attaining
Second Place in the 2002 Scripps Howard
National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. on
May 31, 2002.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize the
outstanding efforts of those students in our nation who commit a great deal of time and effort in
pursuit of the goal of reaching the final round of the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee; and

WHEREAS, Steven Matthew "Stevie" Nalley, a fourteen year-old eighth-grader from
Starkville Academy in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, began his journey to reach the final round
as one of 44 county champions from Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee
who competed in the 2002 Mid-South Spelling Bee, sponsored by *The Commercial Appeal* at
the University of Memphis in early May; Stevie won the Mid-South Championship in the
10th round by correctly spelling "prevaricate"; and

WHEREAS, for his impressive victory, Stevie received an expense-paid trip to compete
in the Scripps Howard National Finals in Washington May 26 - June 1, 2002; he also received a
\$500 savings bond, Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its Addenda Section, an

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electronic Dictionary and Thesaurus, the Encarta Reference Library, the 2002 Paideia Dictionary, the Samuel Sugarman Award of a \$100 savings bond and a trophy; and

WHEREAS, representing the Memphis-Shelby County Spelling Bee which is also sponsored by *The Commercial Appeal*, Stevie then journeyed to Washington to compete against 248 other champion spellers in the 75th Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee; Stevie was a veteran of the 2001 Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee, where he advanced to the third round; and

WHEREAS, in the 2002 competition, Stevie advanced to the 10th round, where he was one of the last two contestants left standing; and

WHEREAS, Stevie proudly notes that he exceeded his goal of making the top 25 and correctly spelled "aneroid" (containing no liquid), "sericeous" (relating to silk), "straiten" (to reduce to poverty), "feretory" (an ornate bier for the relics of a saint), "altricial" (having the young hatched in a very helpless condition), "muliebral" (characteristic of women) and "hirundine" (resembling the swallow); and

WHEREAS, Stevie received a \$6,000 second place prize which earned him the approbation of his mother, Barbara Nalley, his father and study partner, Timothy Nalley, and sister, Laura Nally, all of whom take great pride in the family's champion speller; and

WHEREAS, Stevie excels in English, is a straight A student, a National Honor Society member, a Drama Club member, is on the Headmaster's List, and enjoys swimming, drawing, travelling, and playing video games; and

WHEREAS, Stevie Nalley's singular ability and commitment to excellence as demonstrated by his performance in the 75th Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee certainly bode well for his future success; his noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for his family, his school, and his community; and

WHEREAS, Stevie's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and honor Steven Matthew "Stevie" Nalley upon his impressive Second Place finish in the 75th Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee and extend to him our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.